



# Water Quality NewsFlash

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**Construction General Permit – Board holds hearing** – On May 5, the State Water Resources Control Board held a public hearing on the 1999 statewide permit which regulates stormwater runoff from construction projects. The Board is considering the second set of court-ordered modifications to the monitoring requirements. The proposed monitoring program specifies that “instream [pollutant] concentrations below the point of discharge cannot be significantly different from the upstream concentrations.” During testimony, SWRCB staff indicated that the proposed monitoring went beyond EPA’s requirements and that the Board had taken over 3,000 enforcement actions since the permit was adopted. Environmental group lawsuits forced both sets of modifications and representatives from these groups were not satisfied with the current proposal. A group representative said construction site runoff from a majority of sites currently exceeds standards and will continue to exceed standards with the proposed modifications.

Based on the testimony, Board staff modified the proposed monitoring requirements; a copy showing edits is posted: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/docs/factsheet\\_5\\_8\\_04.doc](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/docs/factsheet_5_8_04.doc) A vote by the Board had been scheduled for the May 20 meeting but has now been postponed.

**Construction Site Enforcement – Wal-Mart agrees to \$3.1 M penalty for 24 sites in nine states**

– The fine is based on allegations of “failure to obtain a permit before starting construction, failure to develop a plan to control polluted runoff from the construction site, failure to adequately install sediment and erosion controls on the sites and failure to self-inspect sites and prevent discharges of sediments to sensitive ecosystems.”

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/b1ab9f485b098972852562e7004dc686/5702a09ae47131c085256e920060d460?OpenDocument>

**Sediment Needed – Beaches fading due to lack of sand** – SWMPs and SWPPPs focus on preventing sediment in runoff, but in some situations this sediment is helpful.

Watersheds in developed areas of California typically no longer provide a sufficient supply of sediment to beaches and these beaches can erode due to lack of sand. To address this issue, the California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup, chaired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Resources Agency, is developing a *California Coastal Sediment Management Master Plan*. The intent is to evaluate and manage California’s coastal sediment management needs on a regional, system-wide basis. Several workshops have been held since February and are ongoing. One of the suggestions at the first meeting was to use excavated material from road projects to replenish beaches. Information: <http://dbw.ca.gov/csmw/csmwhome.htm>

Article: [http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2004/02/06/news/top\\_stories/2\\_5\\_0421\\_50\\_31.txt](http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2004/02/06/news/top_stories/2_5_0421_50_31.txt)

**Brake Pad Partnership – Annual Stakeholder Conference** – Some brake pads contain copper, and normal wear and tear from braking has been suspected as a major source of copper in storm water runoff. The Partnership addresses this issue and is holding its annual conference May 21 in Oakland. Agenda and registration: <http://www.suscon.org/brakepad/index.asp>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, [Betty\\_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov) (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, [fkrieger@msn.com](mailto:fkrieger@msn.com) with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted & searchable online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsfax/index.htm>